



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 173 - Last Words

(2 Timothy)

### The Poignancy of Heartfelt Words

The apostle Paul drafts a letter to Timothy that reveals much about his character and the nature of their relationship.

- What is so special about a person's last words?
- Share some last words you can recall.

### Be Bold

Paul's letter hints in several places that Timothy may have lost some of the boldness and courage he had earlier in his ministry.

- What things can cause a pastor to lose his boldness?
- Which of these is in the power of a congregation to alleviate?
- How does a pastor's timidity affect the members of his congregation and community?
- What can a congregation do to help its pastor rekindle his enthusiasm for the ministry?

### Turning Away

Paul wrote Timothy, "The time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

- How well does Paul's comment fit our world today?
- Why is this particularly challenging for our pastors?
- What warning do these words give us against measuring a pastor's success (or failure) by the number of people in church?

### Battling Loneliness

In a letter where Paul is encouraging Timothy to be bolder, we get a glimpse into his own struggles against loneliness, as he sits imprisoned. It might be similar to the struggles John the Baptist endured, when he was imprisoned by Herod Antipas in Matthew 11:2-3.

- Read Matthew 11:4-6. How did Jesus encourage John in his captivity?
- How can remembering Jesus' loneliness and sufferings as He went to the cross help embolden and encourage us when we are going through difficult times?
- Do you know members of your church who are struggling with loneliness?
- What can you do to help them in their struggles?